

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process for producing aromatic ethers comprising a step of reacting phenols with an oxirane compound with use of an anion exchange resin as a catalyst.
2. The process according to Claim 1, wherein the phenols include multivalent phenols, and the aromatic ethers producible by the reaction contain a phenolic hydroxyl group and an alcoholic hydroxyl group.
3. The process according to Claim 1, wherein the reaction of the phenols with the oxirane compound is carried out in the presence of a solvent having a solubility parameter ranging from 7.0 to 20.0.
4. The process according to Claim 1, wherein the phenols include phenol or cresol.
5. The process according to Claim 1, wherein the phenols include catechols, resorcinols, or hydroquinones.
6. The process according to Claim 5, wherein the phenols include catechol, resorcinol, or hydroquinone.
7. The process according to Claim 1, wherein the phenols include bisphenols.

8. The process according to Claim 7, wherein the phenols include bisphenol A, bisphenol S, bisphenol fluorene, or bisresol fluorene.

9. The process according to Claim 1, wherein the oxirane compound includes ethylene oxide, propylene oxide, isobutylene oxide, or 2,3-butylene oxide.

10. The process according to Claim 1, further comprises a crystallization step following the reaction step, wherein a solvent used in the crystallization step is identical to a solvent in the reaction step in kind, and at least a partial amount of the solvent in the crystallization is used in the reaction step in using the solvent in the reaction step.

11. A process for producing aromatic ethers having an alcoholic hydroxyl group comprising a crystallization-purification step of using a solvent having a solubility parameter ranging from 7.5 to 12.5 for purification by crystallization.

12. Aromatic ethers having an alcoholic hydroxyl group, wherein the content of a metal in the aromatic ethers is less than 100 ppm by mass, and the content of a halogen element in the aromatic ethers is less than 100 ppm by mass.